

Meeting:	Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board
Date:	14 September 2026
Title:	Film Fixer – Supporting the Hampshire and Solent Film Office
Appendices	N/A
Report From:	Economy and Skills – Prosperity
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present an opportunity for consideration by the Board. Hampshire County Council has explored a limited and proportionate means of supporting the development of the Hampshire and Solent Film Office, recognising the potential economic, skills and place-based benefits identified by partners, whilst also acknowledging the Council's current resource constraints.
- 1.2. HPPB is asked to consider recommending that HCC should financially support the Hampshire and Solent Film Office through the allocation of a one-off revenue grant of up to £10,000 from the LEP legacy reserves, to enable the Boroughs and Districts in the County that are not covered by the Solent Growth Partnership to benefit from the opportunity.

2. Background

- 2.1. Culture, Creative and the Visitor Economy are local sectors already supported by the Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board (HPPB). The Board actively supports the Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP), through providing funding and an HPPB Board member also sits on the LVEP Advisory Board. Further, the HPPB is supporting the cultural research being undertaken by Southampton City Council, Hampshire Chamber,

Portsmouth City Council and the Arts Council to deliver a plan for culture for the Combined County Authority.

- 2.2. The UK film and high-end television sector is one of the country's strongest performing creative industries, generating £5.6bn of production spend in 2024, with the majority driven by inward investment and mobile productions that choose locations based on efficiency, film-friendly governance and local support. The South East is consistently one of the most active filming regions outside of London, benefitting from proximity to studios, a highly mobile freelance workforce and a diverse location offer. Hampshire sits squarely within this ecosystem.
- 2.3. Creative Network South, who are strong advocates of the Hampshire and Solent Film Office, have successfully negotiated a contract for Film Fixer to deliver a film office for the region creating a dedicated, professional film office to coordinate access, permissions and promotion.
- 2.4. National best-practice evidence from the BFI and Creative England demonstrates that even modest, well-targeted public investment in a film office significantly increases filming enquiries, repeat visits and local spend by removing friction for productions.
- 2.5. The [Hampshire and Solent Film Office](#) has been explicitly designed to become self-funding over time, with start-up costs covered by partners and future income generated through location fees and services.
- 2.6. Solent Growth Partnership contributed £60,000 (£30,000 each from Southampton and Portsmouth councils), the Isle of Wight also contributed £30,000, alongside partners in the Partnership for South Hampshire who put in £15,000 to allow some coverage outside of the city areas. Film Fixer has lobbied Hampshire County Council to match the contribution made by the other authorities to support this delivery.
- 2.7. Hampshire County Council has consistently recognised the potential economic benefits of a successful film office, including support for freelancers, creative businesses, local supply chains and the visitor economy. However, the Council has also previously concluded that it is not in a position to become a commercial partner or operational participant due to financial and capacity constraints and the need to focus resources on statutory and priority services. This position remains unchanged.
- 2.8. The proposed contribution therefore represents an alternative means of support which aligns with HPPB objectives while avoiding the resource implications associated with formal partnership arrangements previously proposed by Film Fixer. It is also in line with the amounts previously recommended by HPPB to support other sectors within Hampshire.
- 2.9. Working in Partnership: The Hampshire and Solent Film Office is being developed through a collaborative partnership involving local authorities across the Hampshire and Solent area together with wider stakeholders. There is interest from Hampshire's

District Councils to be able to participate in the Film Fixer model, with the Districts covered by the Solent Growth Partnership and the Partnership for South Hampshire (another contributor to the scheme) having access through the contributions made by these two organisations. The proposed contribution from HCC would enable Winchester, Test Valley, Basingstoke, Rushmoor and Hart to participate. In addition, Hampshire Cultural Trust is also included within the membership bringing with it some of the County's most historical sites. The proposal therefore supports a wider sub-regional initiative rather than benefitting a single organisation.

- 2.10. The proposed £10,000 contribution will support the continued establishment and development of the Hampshire and Solent Film Office as a strategic intervention designed to grow the screen and creative production sector across Hampshire and the wider Solent area. The funding is intended as a one-off contribution towards initial set-up and development costs and does not create any ongoing financial or operational commitment for Hampshire County Council.
- 2.11. Why £10,000? The recommended contribution of £10,000 reflects:
- The Council's desire to demonstrate support for the sector without creating an ongoing subsidy arrangement.
 - The need to remain proportionate given wider financial pressures and competing demands on resources.
 - The fact that this is a catalyst contribution towards establishment and growth, rather than full project funding.
 - Consistency with the approach taken previously where limited, one-off support has been provided to assist sector development initiatives.
- 2.12. The contribution is therefore considered sufficient to demonstrate commitment and help leverage wider local authority and partner involvement, whilst protecting public funds and avoiding a long-term liability.
- 2.13. Supporting the Wider Hampshire Geography: A key consideration is the benefit that the Film Office can bring beyond the existing Solent area. Earlier discussions highlighted the need to ensure that authorities in North Hampshire and those outside existing Solent structures could also benefit from the service. This also aligns with the wider Combined Authority geography and may form part of a comprehensive cultural offer in the future (without a Local Growth Plan for the area it is not possible to say definitively what role the cultural industries will play in HSCCA economic strategy, but culture and tourism are recognised as significant sectors in the County, with a strong base in all three cities (Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester) and the National Parks). In addition, tourism represents a significant part of the economy in other parts of the County such as the Test Valley.
- 2.14. The proposed one-off contribution therefore supports an initiative whose ambition extends across both Hampshire and the Solent, ensuring that opportunities for filming activity, business growth, skills development and inward investment are available to communities throughout the wider area.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1. HPPB is asked to consider recommending the proposed contribution to Film Fixer for the continued development of the service, up to the value of £10,000 from the revenue LEP Legacy Reserves.